



The Australia Group

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Outline

1. What is the Australia Group
2. The AG Control lists - Role in Harmonization of transfers of sensitive Chemical and Biological items
3. Relationship with UNSCR 1540, the CWC, & the BWC
4. Interaction with Industry
5. Outreach and awareness raising
6. Future Challenges



What is the Australia Group



- An informal & cross-regional forum of countries dedicated to preventing the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons
 - A key AG focus is the control of exports of chemical and biological materials and technology
- Through the harmonisation of export controls, the AG seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons (CBW).





Foreign Affairs and Trade



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The AG objectives

- Stopping the development of chemical or biological weapons (CBW)
- By making it harder and more expensive for potential proliferators to obtain the ingredients they need
 - in common with the other export control arrangements



AG History

- Created in 1985
- By states concerned that Iraq was diverting legitimate trade in chemicals/equipment to the production of chemical weapons
- Now also looks at biological agents and equipment





Grown from 16 to 42 cross-regional participants

- With a broader objective of promoting the AG standards as global best practice
- many other countries are now using the AG control lists and guidelines





... how the AG works

- Australia is the Chair
- Secretariat in Canberra, with support from other participants
- Annual plenary in Paris
- Technical, policy, information exchange, developing best practice
- Decisions reached by consensus



The AG Control Lists - Harmonization of transfers of sensitive CB items



- The AG's core work is the development of effective, practical & harmonized control lists
- 6 common lists – all available on the website
 - Chemical weapons precursors
 - Dual-use chemical manufacturing facilities and equipment and related technology
 - Biological agents
 - Dual-use biological equipment and related technology
 - Plant pathogens
 - Animal pathogens
- Lists can be updated and modified



Design of the lists



- Should be effective in impeding the production of chemical and biological weapons
- Should be practical and reasonably easy to implement
- Should not impede the normal trade of materials and equipment used for legitimate trade purposes



Relationship with UNSCR 1540, the CWC, & the BWC



- An effective export control system makes it easier for a country to meet its international non-proliferation and related treaty obligations
- The Australia Group control lists provide an **international benchmark** for an effective export system
- The AG helps states meet their obligations under UNSCR 1540, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)



AG links with UNSCR 1540, BWC and CWC



	UNSCR 1540	BWC	CWC
Obligation	UN Member States must maintain effective export and transshipment controls on WMD-related items	States parties must not transfer to or assist any country to manufacture biological weapons related agents, toxins or equipment (Art III)	States parties must adopt necessary measures to ensure toxic chemicals are not produced or transferred for prohibited purposes (Art I and VI)
AG benefits	AG control lists offer best practice for export controls. Adopting these lists assists states in fulfilling their obligations under UNSCR 1540, by helping to prevent non-state actors acquiring CBW-related items.	The BWC does not prescribe exactly what goods are to be controlled. AG's control lists are the only harmonized form of control lists covering materials & technologies relevant to BW. AG control lists are regularly updated.	AG control lists regularly updated, to adapt more quickly to S&T developments. AG lists includes items based on <i>actual</i> CW procurement attempts, including dual-use items.



... and beyond the Lists

- Lists are core work but the AG does more
- Scanning the horizon for new proliferation threats – state and non-state
- Monitoring BW and CW technologies
- Sharing best practice and lessons learned
 - intangible technology/visa checking
 - transit/transshipment



Interaction with Industry – AG commitment to expanding trade & biotechnology industries



- The AG has proved to be an important instrument in ongoing international efforts to impede the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons
- At the same time, the AG is committed to expanding trade in chemical and biological items for peaceful purposes
- *AND* to maintaining active chemical and biotechnological industries



Some benefits to industry...

- Helps industry by
 - guiding international compliance decisions
 - creating an even playing field



Recent developments in the AG

- CW in the news
 - AG deplored use of CW in Syria
 - OPCW received Nobel Peace Prize in 2013
- New AG member – Mexico
- Technical changes to control lists agreed and will be shortly notified on AG website





AG Outreach

- Proliferation goals will be advanced by the broadest possible use of control lists
 - ✧ All exporting and transshipment countries are encouraged to implement similar measures to limit the spread of chemical and biological weapons
 - ✧ Extensive AG outreach program – to over 50 countries/year
 - ✧ Outreach targeted at national governments, in non-AG member countries
 - ✧ National/AG licensing measures are consistent, transparent and publicly available to help industry understand the licensing arrangements and reasons behind them





National authorities key to direct outreach with industry

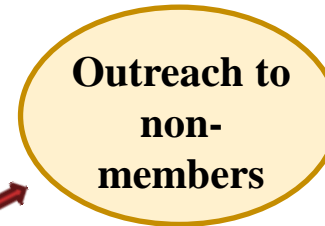
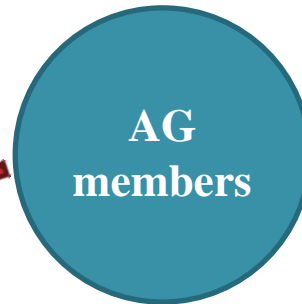
- National authorities in each AG country are responsible for outreach directly to industry, as part of broader export control efforts
- Inter-agency cooperation essential
- The AG provides a forum for dialogue on best industry outreach practice



AG Outreach



Industry



Industry

Foreign Affairs and Trade



Australia's Experience

- an example



- The Defence Export Control Office (DECO) is responsible for regulating the export of defence and strategic goods and technologies within Australia's evolving system of export controls (including AG controls)
- Considers around 3000 applications per year
- In 2012
 - **Three** 'in-principle' applications not supported
 - **One** application was denied for export by the former Minister for Defence
 - **76%** of cases were completed within 20 working days.
- This suggests that outreach has been effective and proliferation concerns are understood by industry



Australia's outreach program



- Aims to teach industry how to export responsibly
- Through:
 - ✧ Training
 - ✧ Publications
 - ✧ Face-to-face meetings
 - ✧ Regular communication with industry
 - ✧ Interagency cooperation
 - ✧ Speaking engagements, e.g. industry events and conferences



AG, Industry & the way ahead



Ongoing work for the AG...

- Updating and revising control lists an ongoing task
 - ✧ Adding and revising to match advances in technology
 - ✧ Culling and clarifying as dictated by experience
- Results freely available on the AG website
- Should not impede the normal trade of materials and equipment for legitimate purposes
- Responding to current issues
 - ✧ Non-state actors/terrorism
 - ✧ Controls on intangible transfers
 - ✧ Technological advances
 - ✧ Emerging threats



Further information

- www.australiagroup.net.au
- Australia Group Guidelines, Common Control Lists, press releases
- AG information booklet – available in all UN languages and German

